

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE.

NEWSY LETTERS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

Items of Interest From all Parts of Sumter and Adjoining Counties.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mail your letters so that they will reach this office not later than Monday when intended for Wednesday's paper and not later than Thursday for Saturday's issue. This, of course, applies only to regular correspondence. In case of items of unusual news value, send in immediately by mail, telephone or telegraph. Such news stories are acceptable up to the hour of going to press. Wednesday's paper is printed Tuesday afternoon and Saturday's paper Friday afternoon.

REMBERT.

Rembert, July 18.—Misses Sarah A. and Frances Mellette, of Jordan, spent Sunday with Misses Hattie and Theresa Sanders.

Mr. Vernon Dinkins paid a flying visit to Mr. Wallace Sanders Sunday. Mr. Hudson James, of the U. S. navy and Master Manigault James, of Darlington, are visiting relatives in our community.

Cotton and young corn are growing off nicely.

Bush Jackson, one of the live boys here, has a nice acre of prize corn.

Mr. Charles Sanders' prize acre of corn, if reports be true, promises to move the record up several notches. This intensive farming will prove to our people that it is needless to plant the world to make a crop. Already talk is abroad to reduce acreage.

Let me again remind our farmers to cultivate their cotton late this year. Have seen a lot of fine corn, heard of other, all of which proves that with sufficient fertilizer and judicious culture, a corn crop is possible among us, wet or dry. "Hagood."

DARK CORNER.

Dark Corner, July 15.—We have had some hot days this week, and "Old Sol" has looked down upon us with a grass-killing frown which has not been lost as we have been up and doing.

But cotton is away behind what it is usually at this time of year, and corn is almost a complete failure in some places. Corn, that under ordinary seasons would have made ten bushels to the acre, will not make two, and what we are to do, God alone knows, for with some of us it is the gloomiest outlook I have ever seen.

Sweet potatoes and sugar cane are doing very well, but pea-nuts, (Spanish), and watermelons are very poor. Early planted peas that have not shed their leaves are yellow and look as if they are going to die. We have some fine peaches, and have had some nice plums and apples.

Politics are kind of warming up in this corner. The bull dog says he is going to fight the tiger for the magistrate's office again this year. Have not heard what the setter intends to do. The old St. Bernard dog, (Judge John F. Ingram) and his friend, Mr. R. M. B. called on the old hound last Wednesday. The St. Bernard says he is in the race for magistrate, to win. But he will have to learn the characteristics of the St. Bernards, and get out and scratch up the lost voters, who are and have been covered up in the snows of Jenkins' and Hodge's storms. But the hound says hurrah for the one that comes out ahead. The hound is like the woman was when she saw her husband and the bear fighting—hurrah for one, well done for the other. I don't care three straws which whips.

While they are running around keeping the political pot boiling, the hound is taking his rest in the shade, remembering what a fool he was two years ago. Kind reader excuse him for that mistake and he will try not to repeat it.

Mr. Ben Geddings has a fine son, and Mr. John H. Ardis, a fine daughter. So you see (dog town) the Dark Corner is increasing in population.

Gus Charles and Corbet Weeks have all been sick, but are somewhat better again.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Weeks, with granddaughter, Miss Nell Phillips, of your city, visited Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ardis last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. J. Geddings, of Pinewood, visited their son Mr. Ben Geddings today.

I spent a very pleasant time in your city, on Saturday the 9th, with Mr. J. J. Kolb, who gave me a pleasant ride up to his house and back down town again. Many, many thanks for the same.

OLD HARD TIMES.

EGYPT.

Egypt, July 16.—We have had very nice rains this week, which were needed very much. Crops are improving, but a half crop can't be expected.

Mr. J. R. McLeod has gone to Camden today.

The Woodman picnic at Antioch last Saturday was quite a success. Hon. M. L. Smith and Mr. C. W.

Birchmore, of Camden, made fine speeches.

Mr. J. C. McLeod left last Wednesday for a week's visit at Tampa, Florida.

Mrs. L. A. White has been quite sick, but we are glad to report her much better.

Mr. L. H. White is visiting friends at Rembert.

Our boys are playing good ball this season. They defeated Camden last Saturday afternoon, 2 to 0. The game was fast and exciting throughout and our boys only won in the last inning.

After the Camden game Manville was defeated 7 to 1.

Miss Nena Bozeman, of Darlington, is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. S. Boykin.

Miss Lena Evans, of Rembert, spent last Saturday with her sister, Mrs. W. T. McLeod.

Quite a number from our section are attending a picnic at Cedar Creek today.

Miss Bertha Huggins has returned to her home after several weeks' stay in Camden.

Mr. James Jenkins, of Rembert, spent Saturday night at this place.

Children's Day will be observed Sunday, July 27th, at Mispah church. The public has a cordial invitation to attend.

OUR SUMMERTON LETTER.

Summerton, July 18.—In the sudden death of Mr. Millard D. Wells at his home in this place on Saturday morning, a large family connection as well as a host of friends have suffered a loss. Mr. Wells was found at his post of duty in the grocery department of the Summerton Mercantile Company on Saturday morning as usual, in apparently good health and spirits, and with no warning complaint was stricken at about 9 o'clock in the morning with apoplexy, becoming immediately unconscious and speechless and death following in a few hours. Mr. Wells was 54 years of age and had always enjoyed more or less perfect health. His kind and jovial manner had made his large number of acquaintances his friends, and his absence from among us will be keenly felt. Mr. Wells while always identified with this community had made his residence here only within the past eight years, where he leaves a wife, one daughter, Miss May, and three sons, Frank, Ossie and Clifton Wells, to mourn his death. The funeral services were conducted at St. Paul's Methodist church a few miles from town at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning and the interment took place there, where other members of his family had been laid to rest. The pall-bearers were: Messrs. Gus, Ashby and Henry Richbourg, Carlisle Ragin, J. H. LeGrand and H. C. Carrigan.

Miss Bertha Davis in company with Mr. and Mrs. Joe E. Davis, of Davis Station, leave on Wednesday for a few weeks' stay at Wrightsville Beach, N. C.

Miss Mildred James leaves on Thursday for a visit to relatives in Denmark, S. C.

Misses Mell Plowden and Aileen Howle, after a short visit to relatives here have returned to their homes in Manning.

THE GOOD ROADS RALLY.

The Meeting Here Next Tuesday Will Be of Interest to All.

The Good Roads Rally to be held in this city next Tuesday, July 26th will be of interest to every taxpayer and farmer in the county and every man who can arrange to attend should take advantage of the opportunity. Mr. Winslow, superintendent of road construction, of the United States department of agriculture, who is with the party and will make the leading address is not only a practical road builder but an inspiring speaker who makes practical things interesting. He knows road conditions in South Carolina probably better than any other man and he knows what is needed and what it will cost. He will tell how Sumter county can secure good roads at the minimum cost and how to maintain them. The meeting will be held in the Court House at 11 a. m. Supervisor Pitts will preside and will introduce the speakers. Speeches will be made by Mr. Winslow, Mr. C. W. Moorman and Mr. R. B. Belser.

PRIZES FOR COTTON FARMERS.

Cotton Seed Oil Mill to Give Away \$175.

The Buckeye Cotton Oil Company of Augusta, Ga., has announced that it will give three prizes, \$100, \$50 and \$25—to the cotton farmers from whom it buys seed, the prizes to be awarded to those who have the best yields of cotton per acre. Those who desire to compete for the prizes must register on or before August 1st. The Buckeye will be represented here by a seed buyer and will compete in this territory for all the seed that the farmers have to sell. Mr. Leon Dove will represent the Buckeye in this city and further information can be obtained from him.

Cotton and Substitutes Therefor.

Fibre and Fabric notes that some people are figuring out a shortage of cotton for the season of 1910-11, and this, too, despite expectations of a 13,500,000 bale crop. It then says: "One thing is lost sight of. How much finished cotton yarn is in stock in the Sluth, in Philadelphia, New York and Boston and in northern mills? The supply of yarn does not figure in the carry-over estimates of cotton made at the close of the cotton year, but there is some in hand, and it is no exaggeration to say that at the close of a cotton year we have on hand in yarn the product of more than 500,000 bales of cotton, and this is a reserve against stoppage of machinery and a balance against any hold-up of cotton for fancy prices. The high-price mania is subsiding very materially and cotton must come out of the clouds the same as other staples. Wool is getting down to a reasonable figure, and within a few weeks some more definite price basis will be fixed and business will increase naturally. The development of a cotton substitute made from American flax is progressing finely, and some of the many processes are sure to work out successfully. In American flax we have an unlimited supply of fiber, once a plan is devised to work it commercially. Skeptics will make capital out of the flax fiber and the processing of it, just as they did over the cotton gin and much of our labor saving cotton mill equipment, but progress has not been checked for all that, and within a few years it is reasonable to suppose that the bright minds at work on the flax problem will accomplish something commercially practical."

The Scholar in Politics.

The suggestion that the Democrats of New Jersey nominate Dr. Woodrow Wilson as their candidate for Governor has been received with more than usual interest. As the president of Princeton, Dr. Wilson stands near the head of the country's educators. But he is more than a university president. He is an earnest student of present-day problems and a vital force among men of affairs. A Democrat in principle, he has always taken a deep interest in national politics, and might easily become a figure of national importance. He has been active in the fight for good government, and, though never a narrow partisan, has stood for Democratic ideals. Even if he should not be elected, his campaign for Governor is likely to be of value to New Jersey in educating the voters and inspiring them to demand a higher standard of public service and a higher grade of public officials. And if he should be elected Governor of this important State, he will loom up as a possibility for the Democratic nomination for President in 1912. With Gaynor, Harmon, Marshall and Folk already in the field, the Democrats will not lack for Presidential timber.—Baltimore Sun.

The State Not a Hard Taskmaster.

The Southern Christian Advocate, in its last issue, calls the State a hard taskmaster and says that the judges are worked to death. We quote this: "The State is overtaking this most important branch of the public service. . . . We need more circuits and more judges. It is a penny wise and a pound foolish policy that for saving a few thousand a year would run the risk of steadily undermining public confidence in the promptness and justice of our courts and of her law, and would slowly sap by overwork the vital energies and efficiency of the strongest and most efficient and most important of our public officials."

Several years ago the writer of this article, when two judges seemed to be unable for duty about half their time, suggested that all candidates for a judgeship be required to undergo a physical examination. That would give us sound men to start with.

There is not a judge in the State who is engaged on the bench thirty full weeks in the year. They have all of twenty for rest and reviewing cases not decided on the bench.

If by mistake a man with some chronic disease is disqualified—the work, he ought to resign and get out of the way. There are fifty good lawyers in the State perfectly willing to take the places of the ten judges now on the bench and run the risk of being worked to death.

The bench is not a hospital for diseased lawyers, nor a sanitarium for judges who break down through the violation of the laws of health.—Spartanburg Journal.

The strangest thing on record is that Sumter is the leading interior cotton market in the State, handling more cotton every year than any other town, is the centre of the best cotton growing country in the South, and still has no cotton mill.

During the last few days about twelve hundred bales of cotton were purchased by one local dealer, and will be shipped to New York. The cotton was purchased at a very good price, above 15 cents, it was stated.

AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL; WHAT AND WHY IT IS.

A Discussion by Prof. W. H. Hand, at The Rural Life Conference at the University of Virginia.

So far we have failed to give any definite meaning to the term agriculture when we speak of teaching it. What is the agriculture that we wish to teach? Which subjects are agricultural? In the first place, we need to differentiate clearly between elementary nature study and essentially agricultural subjects.

However, I am here concerned chiefly with agriculture in the high school. I believe that agricultural subjects have a genuine educational value. If the study of mathematical formulas and physics formulas has an educational value, why not the study of fertilizer formulas? But I cannot subscribe to the doctrine that a teacher can teach agriculture without any special training for it. We do not expect teachers to teach German without a knowledge of the subject, nor physics without a knowledge of that subject. Why should we expect a teacher to handle agriculture without some special knowledge of it? Persistence in this doctrine is going to make us more dissatisfied with the results of the teachings in our schools than ever before.

In response to an urgent demand for the better equipment of farmers, and for some means by which farmers' sons and daughters may be kept on the farm, the agricultural high school has been proposed as a panacea. Such would prove a delusion. It would be as wise to establish schools for the sons of physicians with the vain hope of keeping them all in doctors' shops, or to set up schools for the sons of lawyers with the hope of keeping them in lawyers' offices. The sons and daughters of farmers will remain on the farm whenever farming is made profitable and attractive. Farming will be profitable whenever sufficient business energy and sagacity are put into it. What the farmer most needs is a high degree of general intelligence and business training; things in which he has been too long lacking, due to the fact that business principles and wide intelligence have not been regarded as necessary to farming. When farming shall have become profitable it will then be attractive; and when the farmer by his intelligence and his training is able to cope with his commercial friend, his lawyer friend, and his doctor friend, he will be satisfied with his lot. When the farmer lives in as comfortable a home as that of his town neighbor, has the conveniences of his town acquaintances, and is as well informed as his town business competitors, the farm will hold him a royal and independent citizen. The farmer does not so much object to hard work. The hoe and the plough are not so distasteful to him; his objection to them is that they are the tools of the untrained man, the emblems of unskilled toil and ship-shod business.

The farmer needs skilled hands and vocational training, to be sure, but he needs a trained mind and a cultured mind as well. To give him only a vocational training would be as great a blunder as to give him no vocational training. He needs both. To establish separate high schools to teach agriculture to farmers' boys and girls would be a grave mistake. As yet we have not sufficient money to maintain a single kind of high school. To undertake to maintain a dual system of high schools would be folly. The agricultural high school would not give the farmer the broad and liberal education which he needs. The farmer himself would soon discover it. In fact, I have found not a few boys in these schools, free to confess that they realize that their education is not so broad as that of the boys in the regular academic high schools. Instead of dissipating our efforts in undertaking to maintain two kinds of half-supported high schools, let us increase the efficiency of the present type of high school, put into their courses of study such subjects as are necessary to train boys and girls for farm life on the highest intellectual and business plan. Let us put into these high schools the farmer's boy and girl, the lawyer's boy and girl, the business man's son and daughter. In the same high school will be taught the culture, subjects, the sciences, the agricultural subjects, the commercial subjects and the manual and domestic arts. All these boys will sit side by side, each taking such courses as best fit him for his work. Every girl will find what she most needs. Labor will be dignified in the eyes of all, the classics will be given respect by every pupil in school, and the sciences will be more serviceable to all. The inherent fatal weakness of the separate agricultural high school is that it propagates and fosters class notions and distinctions. The single high school with courses of study for all is the only democratic high school and it is the only economic one.

Peyton Moore, who has been playing with the Sumter Collegians, has been signed by Columbia, and will report there next Monday.

TO PROBE MEAT TRUST. Special Grand Jury Begins Work In Judge Landis' Court.

Chicago, July 15.—A special Federal grand jury was empaneled by Judge K. M. Landis, in the United States District Court, today to hear evidence in regard to the alleged violations of the Anti-Trust law by the National Packing Company and subsidiary meat companies. The jury was cautioned by Judge Landis in his charge to allow their actions to be wholly free from the influence of the often-heard argument that law enforcement will unsettle business.

"You may safely assume," continued Judge Landis, "that no legitimate enterprise needs governmental acquiescence in the commission of crime. You will treat the statute to which I have referred as being just as much in force as are the laws against stealing letters and counterfeiting coins."

The jury was also told to follow the trail until the "real offenders" are located.

"If your investigation discloses the use of an alias, do not indict a mere alias," said the jurist, "but follow the trail wherever it may lead until you have located, identified and pointed out the real offenders."

RUBBER VALUES JUMP.

Plantation Worth \$150,000 Was Sold For \$800,000.

In reporting to this government on opportunities in Malaysia for rubber growing enterprises Consul-General James T. Dubois, at Singapore, cited as follows an instance to show how the investing public is sometimes taken in the exploitation of the rubber industry there:

"An estate was sold to promoters for \$150,000. The syndicate got an old planter, who knew the estate, to put a flotation value on it. He named \$25,000. The promoters were not satisfied. Another expert examined and reported. His price was \$350,000. British and American gold was pouring into the country and the get-rich-quick spirit was born. Another expert was called in. He was told of the former valuations and that were unsatisfactory. He valued the estate at \$500,000. Just at this time rubber took a big jump in the London and New York markets, and another expert was asked to report, and he placed the flotation price at \$750,000, and the syndicate, in order to have it in round numbers, made it an even \$800,000 and floated it at this price. People fought for the stock, the share issue was over-subscribed and many of them immediately sold at a good advance. All this was done within a few months without the slightest improvement on the property, except the natural growth of the few hundred acres of para plants which had recently been planted."

Trained white supervisors on the rubber estates are in demand, the Consul-General reports, and there is a scarcity of labor and consequent high wages.

CORPORATIONS PAYING UP.

Less Than Half Million of Tax Assessments Unpaid.

Washington, July 17.—Treasury returns show that to date there has been paid taxes of \$26,445,699 of the assessments originally made, aggregating \$27,267,927 on account of the corporation tax.

Of the remaining \$822,000 about one-half has been abated by the commissioner of internal revenue for various reasons, or is in dispute.

The expectation is that by the end of the month the \$400,000 unpaid will be received. Already some of the collectors have been obliged to impose penalties for failure to pay the assessments by July 11, this being due in some cases to ignorance on the part of the corporations as to the exact time within which the law should be complied with. In some quarters an impression has existed that the assessments were not payable until the Supreme Court of the United States passed on the constitutionality of the statute.

Tell It to Us.

A great many people think that if they telephone or tell a newspaper man a news item concerning themselves or their family that he will think they are forward and trying to get their names in the paper. This is altogether a mistaken idea. Newspaper men appreciate this little act of kindness upon your part and more so because it comes direct. It is very little trouble to phone us anything you may know in the way of a news item and rest assured we won't think you are "just trying to get your name in the paper." A newspaper is public property, and it is as much your duty as any one to keep it interesting.—Rock Hill Record.

Brooklyn rooster is setting on eggs. That is an offset to the suffragette movement.—New York Herald.

THE SIN OF PROFANITY. An Ugly Habit That Is Silly and Inexcusable.

Few sins are more inexcusable than that of profane swearing. There is something so wanton, so useless, so brutal about its irreverence as to excite wonder at its prevalence.

Drunkenness and lust and gambling have an explanation, though in no sense any justification, in the perversion of strong natural appetite. Theft and murder one can understand in view of man's love of money or his resentment of wrongs done by a fellowman. But what appetite is gratified by indulgence in profanity?

The defense usually made that it springs from a violent temper and is as uncontrollable as the passion that lies behind it neither justifies nor explains the offense. It does not justify, because it merely alleges one sin as an excuse for a second, for a second which is worse than the first. It does not explain, for anger against man does not necessarily or naturally involve insolence toward God. Why should His name be dishonored or His holy attributes be used in a light and contemptuous way, in order to emphasize our dislike of the character or conduct of men? No man would justify his conduct in striking an innocent and unoffending child, simply as an incidental way of venting his spleen upon some neighbor whom he disliked and was disposed to abuse. What would be the general judgment upon one who, when angry at a man, spoke disrespectfully of a pure woman or dragged into the heat of discussion her name in an insulting way? Far less excuse can be made for the common, the sadly and shamefully common sin, of feathering with profane words our shafts of angry abuse. It is an insult to the purity of God. It is an act of brazen impudence that scorns and condemns and defies His sovereign majesty. Men guard with their lives the name of their wife or mother, yet drag in the dust of foul speech the name that is above every name.

And most profane speech has not even the flimsy and childish excuse of anger to justify or palliate its wickedness. Too commonly it is indulged in just, as a humorous way of adding spice and flavor to the conversation. This is sinning in cold blood and with malice aforethought, instead of in the heat of passion. It is murder in the first degree, the murder of reverence and loyal regard for God. The man who defamed his wife or daughter in an outburst of anger could not be held so low and inexcusable, basely wicked as the man who sported in jest with the purity of their name and used them as the back ground or support of light and base jokes. And swearers who garnish their speech with oaths, who clothe themselves with cursing, not as a garment but rather as an ornament, hold high rank among the fools who count it as a sport to do mischief, among the scoffers who have no fear or respect of God.

The excuse commonly made for profanity is that it has become so habitual that the offenders swear unconsciously. The plea is false, as is shown by the fact that profane men rarely forget themselves and swear in the presence of a lady. It is an accepted rule in good society that no gentleman will use an oath before a lady. The fact that habitual swearers can and do remember and apply this rule shows that they can refrain if they will. And the plea also proves the aggravated character of the offense. No man is excused for murdered or theft or lying on the ground that it has been so often indulged in that it has become a second nature. Such a plea can mean only that the more we sin the less we are guilty, that if we indulge in sin until we lose all self-control we may sin with impunity and innocence. The reverse is true. Men are responsible for their willful mutilation of their power of self-control. They cannot spit out venom, and excuse themselves on the ground that they had knowingly swallowed it and could not refrain. They cannot cultivate an evil habit and plead the fact in extenuation of evil acts that result from the habit. To all pleas and excuses and apologies, there is one clear, complete, and crushing answer: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."—Christian Observer.

One of the great English railways is installing a compact railway ticket printing machine. When a ticket for a certain station is required, the clerk touches an indicator which carries the name of the station, slips a blank into a slot, turns a handle and the completed ticket drops out. At the same time a record of the sale is printed on a continuous strip of paper, together with the fare and all information required for bookkeeping.

If it is usury to lend money at more than 8 per cent per annum, how is it that the loan office shyllocks multiply and flourish?